# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2740
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
BUMPER COTTON CROP
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether bumper cotton crop all over the world coupled with a massive price reduction has resulted in serious crisis for the cotton farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Production of cotton in 2004-05 is significantly higher than that in the last year both in India and abroad. In view of the higher production at national and international level, there has been a downward pressure on cotton prices. However, with a view to protecting the cotton farmers, the Cotton Corporation of India (CC!) has been procuring cotton at Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed for 2004-05. As on 16th March 2005, a quantity of 132.57 lakh quintals of kapas (seed cotton), equivalent to 25.79 lakh lint bales, have been procured. Keeping in view the need to strengthen the infrastructure for cotton procurement the Government have recently declared National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) as an agency for undertaking cotton procurement in addition to CCI.